New Rail line from Nagapattinam to Velankanni

2606. SHRI O.S. MANIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to have a new Railway line from Nagapattinam to Velankanni for a distance of 10 Kms to facilitate the pilgrims going to Velankanni Church from all over the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Constraint of resources.

Closure of Caprolactam Plant of FACT

2607. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding closure of Caprolactam plant of FACT;

(b) if so, the reasons for this crisis; and

(c) the steps taken to continue the production and sales?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) to (c) No specific complaint has been received by the Government from the management of FACT regarding closure of its caprolactam plant. During April-July 1996, FACT recorded a production of 8636 MT of caprolactam against the target of 6050 MT.

Consequent to a reduction in the customs duty from 45% to 30% as proposed in the Budget for 1996-97, the indigenous caprolactam industry will have to contend with increased competition from imports.

Import of Urea

2608. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how much urea till date has been imported to fill the gap between demand and supply during 1996-97 as compared no 1995-96, in the country;

(b) which are the foreign agencies involved in import and from which country urea is being imported to Indian indicating FOB price, country-wise quantity of import thereof; and

(c) whether the Indo-Oman fertiliser Joint Venture Ammonia-Urea Fertiliser Plan, is likely to be set up in Oman, if so, by when and what is the present stage of negotiations between the two countries particularly after the Oman Minsiter's visit to India as reported in Hindustan Times [redacted]

Inclusion of Palar River in the River Action Plan

2609. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the reason for not including the Palar river in the list of most critically polluted rivers under the River Action Plan even though it has been highly polluted by tannery effluents in North Arcot Ambedkar, Changai-M.G.R and Madras City?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): Under the National River Conservation Plan, the polluted stretches of the major rivers of the 14 major river basins of India only have been included. The list of the polluted stretches identified after surveys con-